
Regional Council Activity Report

December 16, 1999



Briefing to Member Agencies from Executive Director James M. Bourey

Executive Director's Report

As a year, a century and a millennium speed to a close, we find ourselves also racing to beat the clock as we work to stave off threatened sanctions by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the region's ongoing effort to eliminate unhealthy dust.

In November, the EPA notified the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) by telephone and Governor Jane Hull by letter about a problem it has with the 1999 MAG Serious Area Particulate Plan for PM-10. The EPA believes that the MAG Plan relies too heavily on Maricopa County's fugitive dust control rules known as Rule 310. The Plan assumes a 90-percent compliance for Rule 310 to help achieve a reduction in emissions for attainment in 2006. After reviewing Maricopa County's enforcement efforts, the EPA said it believes the compliance rate is unrealistic, and it also wants the plan to address dust on paved public roads and on unpaved private roads.

The EPA indicated that if the Plan is not approved by March 2, 2000, the first sanction — two to one offsets for major industrial sources — would be imposed. If the Plan is not approved by September 2, 2000, the next sanction — loss of federal highway funds resulting in a conformity lapse — would occur. Such a lapse would mean that ALL new projects of regional significance, even those funded by cities through local funds, would be halted. The EPA suggested that federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds be used to provide needed control measures.

MAG staff immediately began reviewing the plan and potential options for addressing EPA concerns. We determined that using CMAQ funds for region-wide paving projects, purchasing PM-10 certified street sweepers and reducing the assumed compliance rate for Rule 310 to 80 percent, should be sufficient remedies to reach attainment by 2006 and satisfy the EPA. Thanks to the swift work of MAG staff and the support of the Executive, Management and Transportation Review Committees, the recommendations were brought to the Regional Council at its December 8 meeting — less than one month after the problem was brought to our attention. The Regional Council

approved the staff recommendations (see below). The recommended expenditures will be included in the revised plan to be sent to the EPA.

MAG continues to stress its position that Maricopa County must do what it can to enforce Rule 310, and that contractors and other violators must recognize the severity of this problem and comply with this rule. The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors is expected to consider Rule 310 enhancements this week.

Ironically, the EPA has informed MAG that it will take a MINIMUM of four months to review the revised Plan. This means that to avoid the March 2 sanctions, MAG would have had to submit its revised plan to the EPA November 2, 1999 — seven days BEFORE MAG was even notified of the approvability problem. MAG is working with the Governor's Office and the EPA to see what can be done to speed up the review process and avoid any sanctions.

Obviously there is much work to be done now and in the new millennium — on this issue and many others of regional importance. However, as we stop to consider the significance of the century change and our unique place in history, let us also remember that the work we do today will become a legacy of regional progress for those who will call the Valley home over the next hundred — and perhaps even thousand — years.



Regional Council Meeting Report for December 8, 1999

Council Approves Additional Measures for Battling Dust

On November 9, 1999, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notified MAG that it has a problem with the 1999 Serious Area Particulate Plan. The EPA believes that the MAG Plan relies too heavily on Maricopa County's fugitive dust control rules (Rule 310) and does not adequately address paving issues (See above). In an effort to alleviate the EPA concerns, the MAG Regional Council unanimously approved the use of \$7.85 million in CMAQ funds for paving dirt roads in the County and the expenditure of \$3.8 million over four years for the purchase of PM-10 certified street sweepers. In addition, the Regional Council approved a motion to have MAG staff draft a model ordinance to allow member agencies to enforce local dust control ordinances and cite violators within their local jurisdictions.

For more information, contact Lindy Bauer, MAG Environmental Manager (602) 254-6300.

Brown Cloud Project Gets Green Light

The MAG Regional Council voted to approve the 1999 Brown Cloud Project for the MAG Area. The Brown Cloud Project examined the brown cloud in Maricopa County and other western urban areas, including emission sources contributing to the brown cloud. The report recommends six potential control measures to be evaluated for feasibility by implementing entities. The recommended measures include: mandating the use of clean burning diesel fuel; encouraging retrofits and replacements of nonroad diesel engines and equipment; strengthening the voluntary onroad diesel vehicle retirement program; electrifying truck stops (giving truck drivers with refrigerated rigs a place to plug in and not keep engines idling); implementing a toll-free number for smoking vehicle complaints; and implementing a smoking vehicle identification and citation program.

For more information, contact Lindy Bauer, MAG Environmental Manager, (602) 254-6300.

Council Adopts Policies on Smart Growth

The MAG Policies on Smart Growth were developed as a general policy position on growth-related legislation. The decision to create a MAG policy position comes in the wake of two highly publicized growth management efforts taking place in the Valley: the Growing Smarter Commission Report and the Citizens Growth Management Initiative. Because MAG did not feel comfortable supporting either of these two efforts in their current form, staff recommended that the Council instead support elements of legislation that would improve the abilities of local governments to plan for growth. The recommended policies contain eight principles of good planning to ensure that future generations enjoy an improved quality of life. The Regional Council unanimously approved the MAG Policies on Smart Growth.



Upcoming Issues

TIP Nearing Completion

MAG is currently in the process of soliciting updates and new projects to be included in the FY 2001-2005 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for locally or privately funded projects. The deadline for submitting updates and new project requests is January 21, 2000.

TIP projects requested to receive federal funds have already been recommended by the Transportation Review Committee and will be considered by

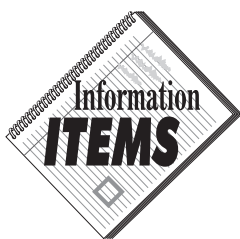
the Management Committee and Regional Council in January. The full TIP, which will include both the local and federal recommendations, is expected to go to the Regional Council in March for approval for a conformity analysis, with a target date of June or July for final approval.

For more information, contact Paul Ward, Transportation Programming Manager, (602) 254-6300.

State to Consider Replacement of Social Services Funds

As a result of a congressional funding reduction in the TEA-21 legislation, which reduces the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) from \$1.9 billion to \$1.7 billion, the amount of social services funding available for distribution through MAG has been reduced by more than \$638,000. The MAG Human Services Technical Committee has recommended cuts to existing programs to absorb these reductions. In an effort to preclude these cuts, MAG is looking for help from the State. In the past, MAG has successfully worked with the Arizona State Legislature to transfer funds from the federal cash assistance program, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). During its December 8th meeting, The Regional Council voted to recommend that the State of Arizona consider replacing the cuts in the Social Services Block Grant with unobligated TANF funds; or if TANF funds are not available, that these funds be replaced by general fund dollars. MAG has forwarded the Council's recommendations to the Joint Welfare Reform Task Force, which is considering draft legislation to incorporate the recommendations.

For more information, contact Carol Kratz, MAG Human Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.



Information Items

MAG Forums Summarized in Y2K Report

In 1999, the Maricopa Association of Governments hosted a series of seven forums focusing on the Year 2000 (Y2K) computer problem. The forums were the result of recommendations by city managers of several of our member agencies, and were designed to bring cities together to share best practices for preparing for the Year 2000 rollover. At each forum, presenters were brought in to discuss major Y2K issues. Speakers included representatives from all major utilities; city and state disaster services; public information officers; the petroleum industry; computer technicians; 9-1-1 operations; liability experts; the banking industry; law enforcement/safety agencies; the retail grocery industry; health care; aviation and the American Red Cross. Each forum included roundtable discussions for cities to share information and

address challenges in dealing with Y2K. Summaries of the information gleaned through each forum were compiled into the MAG Y2K Forums Summary and Review. The report finds that the most likely potential Y2K problems are expected to occur on New Year's Eve, and are more likely to be the result of celebration activities or shortages caused by hoarding than technological problems.

For more information or to request a copy of the report, contact Kelly Taft, MAG Public Communications Program Manager, (602) 254-6300.

Maricopa County Nears 3,000,000 Mark

MAG has released its population estimates for July 1, 1999. Maricopa County saw a significant increase in population the past year, swelling by more than 107,000 people to 2,913,475. If growth continues at its current pace, Maricopa County will exceed 3,000,000 people sometime in the next six months. MAG develops the population projections each year based on the number of new housing units constructed. The estimates are used to distribute \$23 million in state lottery funds. The new population figures were formally adopted by the MAG Regional Council during its December 8 meeting.

For the second year in a row, the City of Surprise is tops among cities and towns in Maricopa County when it comes to percentage of growth. Surprise has grown by 39 percent during the past year, from 18,830 to 26,145 residents. Surprise's annual average growth rate since the 1995 Special Census was 27.5 percent. Goodyear is second in average annual growth rate, with an 18.2 percent increase since 1995. The Town of Gilbert surpassed 100,000 residents, a significant increase from its 29,000 residents in 1990 and 59,000 residents in 1995. Gilbert's average annual growth rate since 1995 is 15.6 percent, the third highest among local governments in the County. Although Phoenix's population has only increased by an average annual rate of 2.1 percent, it has added more than 91,000 residents since 1995, nearly triple Chandler's increase of more than 36,000 people during the same time period. Two cities in the region, Glendale and Scottsdale, surpassed the 200,000 population threshold with 208,095 and 204,660 residents respectively, as of July 1, 1999.

For more information, contact Harry Wolfe, MAG Socioeconomic Program Manager, (602) 254-6300.



Upcoming Events

Internet Taxation Focus of MAG Forum

The future of taxation on the Internet and its effects on local services will be the focus of an Internet Taxation Forum sponsored by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). The forum will be held on Thursday, December 16 from 2:00-4:30 p.m. at the MAG offices, 302 North 1st Avenue in Phoenix. The forum will take place on the 2nd floor in the Saguaro Room. Panelists will include Rep. Jeff Hatch-Miller (District 26), Mesa Councilman Dennis Kavanaugh, Arizona Department of Revenue Assistant Director Terry Trost, and Westcor President and CEO Rob Ward.

For more information, contact Rita Walton, MAG Information Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.

Next Regional Council Meeting

The next Regional Council Meeting will be January 19, 2000. Agenda items are expected to include approval of the Grand Avenue Major Investment Study for inclusion in the Long Range Transportation Plan for conformity analysis, and recommended approval for public comment of the MAG Tentative 2001-2005 Federal Funded Program, the Tentative Freeway Life Cycle Program, the ADOT Tentative 2001-2005 Highway Construction Program, and the RPTA Tentative 2001-2005 Regional Transit Program. The meeting will be held at the MAG office, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix, in Suite 200 (Saguaro Room).

For more information, contact Dennis Smith, MAG Assistant Director, (602) 254-6300.